

Sound Off!

Marine Band releases 23rd educational recording, free exclusive downloads, and ringtones

This winter the Marine Band presents a virtual cornucopia of auditory offerings. For teachers, libraries, and radio stations, the band has produced its 23rd educational recording, *Symphonic Dances*, featuring a new transcription of Leonard Bernstein's famed Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*.

"Concert band musicians have long wished for a transcription of the suite, but until now the Bernstein estate had not sanctioned one," Marine Band

Director Colonel

Michael J.

Colburn said.

"Paul Lavender's marvelous new setting will be published in 2007, just in time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this icon of American musical theater."

The CD also

includes the Suite from the

ballet *Pineapple Poll* by Sir Charles Mackerras, which is based on the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, *Danse Funambulesque* by Jules Strens, and *La valse* by Maurice Ravel and Dances from *Estancia* by Alberto Ginastera, both transcribed by Marine Band copyist Master Sergeant Donald Patterson. *Symphonic Dances* will be available for patrons to listen to via streaming in December.

The Marine Band's website also features free downloadable selections which are updated monthly. Listeners

may visit the "Web Exclusives" section of the Audio Resources web page and find the "March of the Month," Col. Colburn's "Director's Choice," to include the Marine Chamber Orchestra's recording of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*; "Featured Soloists," such as mezzo-soprano Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo and double bassist Master Sergeant Aaron Clay; and the "New Music Corner" which highlights contemporary music written specifically for winds.

Several of the Marine Band's most popular pieces, to include the National Anthem and John Philip Sousa's march "The Stars and Stripes Forever," may be found under "Patriotic Favorites." However, bugle calls, ruffles and flourishes, and martial music for Marine Corps retirements, birthday balls, and other events are located in "Ceremonial Music."

The latest addition to the online collection is cell phone ringtones. Patrons may download MP3 strains of "The President's Own" performing "The Stars and Stripes Forever," Sousa's march "Semper Fidelis," and The Marines' Hymn.

For more information about how to receive free Marine Band recordings, please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources/educational_recordings/index.htm.



Living History in 2008

In honor of the Marine Band's 210th anniversary, the upcoming 2008 Showcase Concert Season will feature a series of "Living History" performances designed to highlight special eras from the band's storied past. Featured concerts pay homage to the Marine Chamber Orchestra's role in Alice Roosevelt's wedding, the Marine Band's landmark radio show, "The Dream Hour," and Presidents' musical preferences.

Special guests include John Philip Sousa IV, CBS News' Bob Schieffer, the New York Philharmonic's principal trumpet Philip Smith, White House historian Elise Kirk, the Philadelphia Orchestra's principal horn Jennifer Montone, and more. The season will conclude with a gala performance featuring guest conductor John Williams. More details will appear in the January/February 2008 edition of NOTES and on www.marineband.usmc.mil.

“The President’s Own” Appoints 35th Drum Major

On Aug. 24, Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn passed the mace from Master Gunnery Sergeant Thomas D. Kohl to Master Sergeant William L. Browne in a relief and appointment ceremony at John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex in Washington, D.C.

With the passing of the mace, Col. Colburn transferred the band’s ceremonial responsibilities and senior enlisted leadership duties to Master Sgt. Browne. As Drum Major, Master Sgt. Browne is responsible for the band’s appearance, ceremonial drill, and military decorum. He is charged with directing the band in ceremonial commitments, including the Inaugural Parade, and will regularly lead the band in review for U.S. Presidents, Heads of State, and international dignitaries.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Kohl, the Marine Band’s 34th Drum Major, retired after six years with the Marine Band and nearly 21 years in the Marine Corps. General Michael W. Hagee, USMC, (Ret.) 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, officiated the ceremony and presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal.

During his remarks about Master Gunnery Sgt. Kohl, 33rd Drum Major and Marine Band Executive Assistant to the Director Major John R. Barclay said, “Over the years I’ve had the pleasure of witnessing some very talented Drum Majors. Without question you are the best I have ever seen on the parade deck.”

Master Gunnery Sgt. Kohl joined “The President’s Own” in December 1999 as assistant Drum Major, and became the band’s Drum Major in February 2001. Upon graduating from Eisenhower High School in Rialto, Calif., in 1986, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was subsequently assigned to the basic

course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Va. During his career, Master Gunnery Sgt. Kohl performed the clarinet with the 2d Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Marine Forces Pacific Band, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, Okinawa, Japan; and the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Marine Band in El Toro, Calif., where he also served as enlisted bandleader and drum major. He holds a

bachelor’s degree from Chapman University in Orange, Calif., and a master’s from the University of Maryland in College Park.

Drum Major Browne joined “The President’s Own” in January 2001 as assistant Drum Major and has served as the band’s supply chief since February 2004. A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Drum Major Browne began his musical training on the trumpet. After graduating from Fletcher Senior High School in Neptune Beach, Fla., in 1985, he attended Florida State University in Tallahassee and enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1989. During his career, he has performed with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band, 29 Palms, Calif.; 2d Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune; the NATO Band, Naples, Italy; and the 1st Marine Division Band, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he also served as assistant drum major.

The early leadership of the Marine Band consisted of a Drum Major and a Fife Major. The Drum Major was considered the

Leader of the Marine Band and the Fife Major’s responsibility was to train the fifers. In July 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed an Act of Congress reorganizing the Marine Band, which created the positions of Leader, who was the principal musician, Drum Major, and 30 musicians. The title of Fife Major was abolished that year, and in 1881 the fife was removed from Marine Corps instrumentation.



Col. Michael J. Colburn (right) presents the mace to 35th Drum Major Master Sgt. William Browne.

Promotions

To Master Gunnery Sergeant:

Principal trumpet Kurt Dupuis of Rochester, N.H., and concertmaster Claudia Chudacoff of Ann Arbor, Mich.

To Master Sergeant:

Solo cornet Matthew Harding of North Dartmouth, Mass.

To Gunnery Sergeant:

Administration chief Lacey Reid of Washington, D.C., and tuba player Christopher Tiedeman of Tacoma, Wash.

Vacancies

“The President’s Own” announces the following audition dates:

Co-principal oboe: Jan. 14-15 **Trumpet/cornet:** Feb. 4-5
Bass trombone: Jan. 28-29 **English horn/oboe:** Feb. 25-26

For information, contact: Marine Band Operations Officer, Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, SE, Washington, DC 20390 (202) 433-5714, marineband.operations@usmc.mil
 Audition repertoire may be found at www.marineband.usmc.mil.



"The President's Own"
Public Affairs Office
Marine Barracks
8th and I Streets, SE
Washington DC 20390-5000

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*The Marine Band Appointed Its 35th Drum Major.
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**2008
Poster
Inside!**

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November - December 2007



“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

LIVING HISTORY

www.marineband.usmc.mil

CELEBRATING 210 YEARS OF PLAYING AMERICA’S MUSIC

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